

May 18, 2004

Dear University City Community Member:

I want to address the very misleading email you received this weekend about the FBA update recommendations before the Land Use and Housing Committee this week.

The Land Use and Housing Committee will NOT be making a decision about whether the Regents Road Bridge or the Genesee widening should or should not be built. As most in the community are aware, the environmental review process to determine a preferred project has been ongoing and is near completion and a decision will be made once that process is complete. I want to emphasize that I remain committed to the UC North South Transportation Study process, which has been extensive, open and fair. I will not make a decision until I have the opportunity to review the environmental and traffic data currently being collected in the EIR.

At tomorrow's Land Use and Housing Committee meeting, the committee will be acting on the yearly update of the fees charged for the Facilities Benefit Assessment ("FBA") in UC. The fees charged for the Facilities Benefit Assessment for development in North University City are based on the projected costs of projects contained in the University Community Plan. Every spring, every FBA in the city, including UC, is updated to keep costs current and make sure that the fee charged to development in the area will adequately cover the infrastructure contained in the community plan. As you are probably aware, the current University Community Plan includes both the Regents Road Bridge and the widening of Genesee Avenue, and the plan has contained them for decades. Contrary to what was stated in the e-mail you received, the FBA fees have been collected on these projects for many years. This is not "all of a sudden," as stated in the e-mail.

Some have suggested that this regular and annual update not occur this year until the North South Corridor EIR is complete. Unfortunately, the result of delaying this administrative update would be to put other infrastructure projects in the area in jeopardy. FBA fees are collected when building permits are pulled. Fees are now being collected on development that was approved well before I was

elected to office but is just now being built. If we wait to impose the new fee level, those developers whose projects have already been approved will underpay, and the community will not have enough money to complete future infrastructure projects. This includes not just the north/south corridor controversial projects mentioned here, which we may or may not decide to build, but projects near the I-5 and I-805 that will likely improve freeway access and the Nobel Park and Library project. Several of these projects have seen increases in cost and need this update to be approved so that they can proceed.

Please feel free to call my office with any questions about this topic at (619) 236-6611. Again, I am committed to the UC North South Transportation Study Process and look forward to working with you on transportation issues in UC.

Sincerely,

Scott H. Peters